

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04
SIL-01 CU-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 USSS-00 TRSE-00 /100 W
-----151626Z 079163 /45

O R 141540Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6273
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT FOR JUNE 15

SUMMARY: PRESS HAS REPORTED EXPLOSION WHICH DAMAGED BUSY COMMUTER RAIL LINE OUTSIDE DURBAN EARLY THIS MORNING (JUNE 15) AND TERMED BY POLICE AS WORK OF "SABOTEURS". SITUATION REMAINS TENSE IN URBAN TOWNSHIPS. DEMONSTRATIONS AND CLASS BOYCOTTS REPORTED AT A NUMBER OF SOWETO SCHOOLS. HOW TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS IN JOHANNESBURG-PRETORIA AND CAPE TOWN AREAS WILL RESPOND TO CALLS FOR WORK BOYCOTT BEGINNING TOMORROW IS QUESTION OF MAJOR CONCERN. END SUMMARY

1. CAPE TOWN - NO INCIDENTS REPORTED IN TOWNSHIPS. RIOT POLICE CONTINUE TO BE MUCH IN EVIDENCE. MANY RESIDENTS REPORTED UNCERTAIN HOW TO RESPOND TO CALL FOR WORK BOYCOTT BEGINNING TOMORROW, FEARING RETALIATION IF THEY IGNORE IT.

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2. DURBAN - AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS AN EXPLOSION DAMAGED THE RAIL LINE FROM THE BLACK TOWNSHIP OF UMLAZI INTO DURBAN AT 0320 THIS MORNING. POLICE STATE THEY REGARD IT AS SABOTAGE BUT HAVE NO IDEA WHO SET THE BLAST AND ARE INTENSIVELY INVESTIGATING. REPORTERS HAVE TOLD CONOFFS THAT ONLY ONE RAIL WAS DISLODGED BUT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF GRAVEL WAS SCATTERED INDICATING IT MAY HAVE BEEN A LARGE BUT POORLY

PLACED DEVICE. OF TWO INBOUND TRACKS AT POINT OF EXPLOSION ONE WAS UNDAMAGED MEANING TRAFFIC WAS ONLY SLOWED, NOT DISRUPTED. A SAFETY SYSTEM PREVENTED ANY ACCIDENT AS THE RESULT OF THE DAMAGED LINE. A KNOWLEDGABLE BLACK JOURNALIST TOLD CONOFFS THAT HE HAS NOT HEARD OF ANY LOCAL PLANS FOR A WORK BOYCOTT ON JUNE 16 OR 17 EVEN THOUGH HE HAS BEEN SOUNDING OUT LOCAL BLACK OPINION ON THE MATTER. SAME SOURCE HAD NO IDEA WHO MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR RAIL LINE EXPLOSION.

3. JOHANNESBURG - SOWETO CLEARLY HEATING UP WITH REPORTS OF ACTIVITY ON EAST RAND AS WELL. STUDENTS BOYCOTTING CLASSES AT MANY SCHOOLS, ALTHOUGH REPORTS OF A COMPLETE BOYCOTT INCORRECT. POLICE HAVE USED TEAR GAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, INCLUDING NEW "SNEEZE MACHINE", A FOGGING DEVICE THAT SPEWS MIXTURE OF TEAR GAS AND TALCUM POWDER. SEVERAL REPORTS OF ROBBERIES OF DELIVERY VANS, POLICE HAVE PROMISED PROTECTION FOR ALL VANS IN AND OUT OF SOWETO. ROAD BLOCKS ARE UP IN MANY AREAS AND POLICE ARE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, POLITELY SEARCHING VEHICLES AND ASKING PASSENGERS FOR DOCUMENTS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO PROCEED INTO JOHANNESBURG. INDICATIONS ARE WORK BOYCOTT WILL BE OBSERVED BY MANY, AT LEAST TOMORROW, HOWEVER A FEW JOHANNESBURG FIRMS HAVE INDICATED "NO WORK-NO PAY." POLICE STILL BEING HELD BACK IN MOST CASES WITH NO DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS.

4. PRETORIA - TOWNSHIPS WERE APPARENTLY QUIET LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING (JUNE 15). MAMELODI YESTERDAY HAD SPORADIC INCIDENTS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT DAY, BUT POLICE KEPT THINGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER CONTROL. SEVERAL CARS AND BUSES WERE DAMAGED BY STONES BUT NO INJURIES REPORTED. BOTH ATTERIDGEVILLE AND GA-RANKUWA/MABOPANE ARE REPORTED QUIET BY RESIDENTS. FOLLOW-UP CONTACT WITH ATTERIDGEVILLE SRC CONFIRMS THAT THEY ARE NOT CALLING FOR WORK BOYCOTTS. THEY ONLY ASK THAT WORKERS WEAR BLACK OR BLACK ARMBANDS. LOCAL EMPLOYEES ARE STILL NERVOUS, HOWEVER, THAT TSOTSI ELEMENTS COULD MAKE TROUBLE FOR PERSONS TRAVELLING TOMORROW TOWARDS CITY. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, EXPLOSIONS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: SITUATION REPORT FOR JUNE 15 SUMMARY: PRESS HAS REPORTED EXPLOSION WHICH DAMAGED BUSY COMMUTER RAIL LINE OUTSIDE DURBAN EARLY THIS MORNING
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58a7c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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